Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)
Child Care Subsidy Monthly Report

The following report reflects information contained in the Child Care Data System (CCDS) administered by the DESE Office of Childhood. Unless otherwise noted, data consists of un-duplicated counts of children and families participating in the subsidy program for the identified month.
Database as of January 8, 2026.

December 2025

SECTION 1: CHILD CARE HOUSEHOLD APPLICATIONS

*The status reflects the action that was taken during the month indicated.

		December	Change From Month Prior	Change From 2 Months Prior
Submitted		3,692	18.1%	5.2%
Approved		2,701	8.4%	-20.7%
Rejected		1,421	-5.2%	-22.5%
Pending	15 Days or Less	113		
	More Than 15 Days	14		
Total Pending		**127**		

SECTION 2: NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS AND CHILDREN APPROVED FOR SUBSIDY

		December 2025	November 2025	October 2025	Change From Month Prior	Change From 2 Months Prior
Approved Households	Income	19,525	18,997	18,363	2.8%	6.3%
	Protective Services	4,268	4,220	4,138	1.1%	3.1%
	Total	**23,793**	**23,217**	**22,501**	**2.5%**	**5.7%**
Approved Children	Income	30,019	30,595	30,507	-1.9%	-1.6%
	Protective Services	6,857	6,930	6,960	-1.1%	-1.5%
	Total	**36,876**	**37,525**	**37,467**	**-1.8%**	**-1.6%**

SECTION 3: CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PAYMENTS

Children Served	Income	22,261	21,739	20,783	2.4%	7.1%
	Protective Services	4,818	4,753	4,604	1.4%	4.6%
	Total	**27,079**	**26,486**	**25,374**	**2.2%**	**6.7%**
Payments		$25,665,681	$27,693,402	$22,551,405	-7.3%	13.8%
Average Payment Per Child		$948	$1,046	$889	-9.3%	6.7%

SECTION 4: TRANSITIONAL CHILD CARE SUMMARY

	Level 1 (151-185% FPL)			Level 2 (186-215% FPL)			Level 3 (216-242% FPL)		
	December 2025	November 2025	October 2025	December 2025	November 2025	October 2025	December 2025	November 2025	October 2025
Approved Households	645	615	560	231	207	185	91	76	70
Children Served	995	981	951	334	303	279	117	110	94
Payments	$808,484.60	$899,578.48	$733,848.04	$260,085.09	$262,491.71	$204,686.58	$93,338.72	$94,161.46	$61,736.18
Average Payment per Household	$1,253	$1,463	$1,310	$1,126	$1,268	$1,106	$1,026	$1,239	$882
Average Child Expenditure	$813	$917	$772	$779	$866	$734	$798	$856	$657

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SECTION 5: CHILDREN SERVED BY AGE

	Children Served December 2025	Payments December 2025
Under Age 1	1,272	$2,044,561
AGE 1	3,230	$5,539,552
AGE 2	4,008	$4,501,683
AGE 3	4,425	$4,071,459
AGE 4	4,150	$3,703,668
AGE 5	2,817	$2,007,953
AGE 6	1,707	$919,784
AGE 7	1,418	$735,569
AGE 8	1,184	$628,323
AGE 9	988	$503,420
AGE 10	810	$420,082
AGE 11	518	$273,606
AGE 12	341	$189,740
AGE 13	158	$91,609
Age 14 and Over	43	$34,673
Total	27,069	$25,665,681

SECTION 6: APPLICATIONS BY STATUS AND REGION

December 2025

*The status reflects the action that was taken during the month indicated.

	Applications Received	Applications Approved	Applications Rejected	Percent Rejected	Total Resolved	15 Days or Less	More Than 15 Days	Percent Over 15 Da..
Cape Girardeau	193	136	107	41.8%	243	6	0	0.0%
Columbia	115	70	77	50.3%	147	6	0	0.0%
Jefferson City	152	86	83	46.1%	169	1	0	0.0%
Macon	51	30	33	50.8%	63	2	0	0.0%
Not Selected	1,506	1,306	285	16.9%	1,591	59	10	14.5%
Raytown	515	331	242	40.2%	573	13	1	7.1%
Springfield	299	176	159	45.7%	335	7	2	22.2%
St. Louis	861	566	435	41.5%	1,001	19	1	5.0%
Total	**3,692**	**2,701**	**1,421**	**32.8%**	**4,122**	**113**	**14**	**11.0%**

SECTION 7: REASON FOR CARE FOR APPROVED HOUSEHOLDS BY REGION

December 2025

Region	Education	Employment	Homeless	Incapacitated Pare..	Job Search	Not Available	Protective Services	Special Need	Training	Grand Total
Cape Girardeau	191	1,684	51	9	371	58	676	26	15	**2,748**
Columbia	105	880	55	7	242	37	307	21	22	**1,444**
Jefferson City	107	961	36	9	280	44	450	17	14	**1,712**
Macon	45	414	9	2	93	12	193	12	4	**707**
Not Selected	1,056	6,511	213	43	1,829	510	2,105	108	179	**9,969**
Raytown	553	2,977	346	23	1,193	113	900	61	132	**5,278**
Springfield	234	1,691	71	9	432	53	717	35	18	**2,866**
St. Louis	1,041	5,748	514	68	1,928	300	1,016	134	173	**9,089**
Total	**2,265**	**14,278**	**1,079**	**128**	**4,520**	**613**	**4,279**	**306**	**376**	**23,790**

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SECTION 8: REASON FOR CARE FOR APPROVED HOUSEHOLDS AND CHILDREN

	Households			Children		
	December 2025	November 2025	October 2025	December 2025	November 2025	October 2025
Education	2,265	2,190	2,082	3,658	3,734	3,677
Employment	14,278	13,857	13,315	24,550	24,986	24,842
Homeless	1,079	1,074	1,042	1,423	1,488	1,478
Incapacitated Parent	128	128	127	209	207	213
Job Search	4,520	4,386	4,286	4,410	4,506	4,447
Not Available	613	610	614	1,250	1,285	1,335
Protective Services	4,279	4,232	4,151	6,884	6,962	6,996
Special Need	306	300	301	492	501	510
Training	376	368	365	604	607	648
Total	**23,790**	**23,214**	**22,499**	**36,835**	**37,496**	**37,432**

SECTION 9: DEMOGRAPHICS OF APPROVED CHILDREN BY RACE

	December 2025	November 2025	October 2025
African American (Black)	17,440	17,837	17,828
American/Alaskan Native	300	303	311
Asian	120	119	111
Caucasian (White)	13,684	13,904	13,866
Multi-Racial	4,001	4,038	4,006
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Isl..	55	54	55
Other	553	572	587
Prefer not to answer	695	685	683
Unknown	0	0	0
Total	**36,835**	**37,496**	**37,432**

SECTION 10: DEMOGRAPHICS OF APPROVED CHILDREN BY ETHNICITY

	December 2025	November 2025	October 2025
Hispanic	5.9%	5.9%	5.9%
Non-Hispanic	90.9%	91.0%	90.9%
Prefer not to answer	3.2%	3.2%	3.2%
Total	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**

Missouri DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION

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SECTION 11: DEMOGRAPHICS OF APPROVED HOUSEHOLDS BY INCOME

December 2025

*excludes Protective Services households

Household Size	Approved Households	% of Total Households Last Month along Table (Down)	Average Household Monthly Income
0	0	0.0%	$2,404
1	301	1.3%	$57
2	7,353	30.9%	$968
3	7,799	32.8%	$1,221
4	5,521	23.2%	$1,376
5	3,046	12.8%	$1,453
6	1,426	6.0%	$1,377
7 or More	1,031	4.3%	$1,305
Total	**23,790**	**100.0%**	**$1,099**

SECTION 12: CHILDREN SERVED AND AVERAGE PAYMENT PER CHILD BY FACILITY

		December 2025			November 2025			October 2025		
Provider Type	Provider Facility Type	Children Served	Payments	Average Paymen..	Children Served	Payments	Average Paymen..	Children Served	Payments	Average Paymen..
Exempt	Exempt Program	620	$303,426.07	$489	624	$320,087.69	$513	617	$284,141.88	$461
	Six or Fewer	1,194	$766,453.47	$642	1,166	$728,394.94	$625	1,093	$578,222.54	$529
License Exempt	Religious Organization/ Nursery School	1,753	$1,279,529.60	$730	1,764	$1,461,902.51	$829	1,650	$1,130,212.72	$685
Licensed	Licensed Child Care Center	22,211	$22,202,622.31	$1,000	21,631	$24,000,976.27	$1,110	20,797	$19,672,614.59	$946
	Licensed Family Child Care Home	930	$773,691.06	$832	916	$849,504.63	$927	881	$640,348.05	$727
	Licensed Group Child Care Home	464	$339,958.45	$733	500	$332,185.55	$664	446	$245,865.47	$551
Total		**27,069**	**$25,665,680.96**	**$948**	**26,486**	**$27,693,051.59**	**$1,046**	**25,374**	**$22,551,405.25**	**$889**

SECTION 13: PAID AND CONTRACTED PROVIDERS

*Includes contracted providers and providers in the process of renewing their contract.

Contracted Providers	Exempt	Exempt Program	183	182	181
		Six or Fewer	372	370	376
	Licensed	Licensed Child Care Center	1,193	1,183	1,183
		Licensed Family Child Care Home	177	175	176
		Licensed Group Child Care Home	58	56	55
	Licensed Exempt	Religious Organization/Nursery School	101	102	102
Total			**2,084**	**2,068**	**2,073**

SECTION 14: CHILDREN RECEIVING OTHER STATE ASSISTANCE

	December 2025	November 2025	October 2025	Change From Month Prior	Change From 2 Months Prior
Energy Assistance Program (LiHEAP)	2,436	2,362	2,252	3.1%	8.2%
Low Income Housing	2,325	2,297	2,197	1.2%	5.8%
Medicaid	16,951	16,437	15,661	3.1%	8.2%
Food Stamps (SNAP)	16,404	16,073	15,331	2.1%	7.0%
Temporary Assistance (TANF)	757	747	716	1.3%	5.7%
Total	20,042	19,563	18,697	2.4%	7.2%